



## A Message From The Secretary

Throughout October thousands of Kansans will have the opportunity to get free flu shots as local health departments in 10 counties conduct mass immunization clinics, called Flu-X exercises. KDHE has purchased 20,000 doses of vaccine for the clinics to be held at 12 locations including the Kansas Expocentre in Topeka on Oct. 21. KDHE has worked with health departments to assist with planning the exercises. The clinics will allow counties to exercise mass immunization plans while providing actual influenza immunizations to participants. We encourage Kansans to get a flu shot to get protected from the flu. Influenza/pneumonia related illness killed more than 1,700 people in the state last year.

This month, KDHE is also encouraging Kansas women to get an annual mammogram screening. October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. KDHE's Early Detection Works Program is available to assist women, ages 40 to 64, who qualify for a free screening. More than 9,500 cases of breast cancer were detected during the past five years in the state. In cases where breast cancer is found early, there is a much better chance for effective treatment and a longer, healthier life.

KDHE wrapped up another successful Kansas Environment Conference this year and has begun planning for next year's conference. This year's event drew approximately 300 people to Overland Park. Topics included environmental regulatory changes, new technologies, health care compliance, and pollution issues. Awards were presented to Fort Riley and UBF Foodsolutions of Wichita for significant contributions to the prevention of pollution.

EPA recently commended KDHE for its work in preparing the water quality standard revisions and approved nearly all of the provisions of the new and revised Kansas water quality standards submitted by KDHE. These are now effective for implementation. States are required to review their water quality standards at least every three years and submit new or revised standards to EPA.

In an effort to help our communities throughout Kansas, KDHE has kicked off its 2004 United Way campaign and set the campaign contribution goal at \$15,000. Last year the agency raised nearly \$14,000 for Kansas programs. We are well on our way this year, having already reached 20 percent of our goal in the first week of the campaign. Keep up the good work!

Be Well,